

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DeFAZIO, Peter A. (Democrat)
Representative, 4th District, Oregon
Elected 1986 to 100th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Needham, Massachusetts - 27 May 1947

Home: Springfield, Oregon

Marital Status: Married (Myrnie)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Tufts Univ, BA, 1969; Univ of Oregon, 1969-71, MS, 1979

Military: US Air Force Reserve, 1967-71

Profession: Congressional aide; local government official.

Political: Lane County Commission, 1982-86; legislative aide to Rep James Weaver (D), succeeding him when he retired. Ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination to Senate, 1996. Reelected in 1998 with 68% of the vote and in 2000 with 68%.

Rep DeFazio, a liberal, is a persistent critic of corporate welfare (defense contractors) and excessive military spending

In the 107th Congress, offered an unsuccessful amdt to the FY01 supplemental appropriations bill that sought to reduce Air Force O&M funding for aircraft logistics support by \$24.5 million; said he opposed "\$24.5 million for a fleet of luxury jets for generals and admirals." Introduced H.R. 1270, to increase accountability for Gov't spending and to reduce wasteful Gov't spending. Cosponsored with Rep Kucinich (D-OH) the Progressive Caucus Budget Substitute. Criticizing the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act, asserted that it "failed to allocate one cent toward additional airline security or mandate an iota of change in a system that we now has failed." Believed that a comprehensive infrastructure security package should not be limited to aviation--it could include our pipelines, our dams, generating facilities, nuclear plants, etc. Criticized the Congress for rushing through a bailout of the airlines that did not help the workers. Expressed concern regarding the spending priorities in the DoD authorization bill; stated that he did not make his decision to support it lightly--"The world changed on September 11, 2001. The terrorist strikes on US soil have created a sense of urgency to guarantee our troops are adequately supplied and supported in order to respond and defend our country." Announced that he would oppose the Vitter (R-LA) amdt that requires schools that accept Federal funds to permit regular US Armed Services recruitment activities on school grounds, not because he believed military recruiters should be excluded from school grounds, but because he strongly supported the ability of local communities to determine what is best for their schools and their children. Stating that he opposed the formation of the World Trade Organization, NAFTA, and MFN for China, criticized the administration for not filing a complaint against OPEC. During debate on H. J. Res. 64, war powers, reminded his colleagues that Article I Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to declare war.

Warned that "in our desire to show support for the President, we must be careful not to cede our constitutional duties now or set a precedent for doing so in the future."

Member of: Air Force Caucus; Porkbusters Coalition; Vietnam Era Veterans in Congress;

Progressive Caucus (Chairman) - an organization with an emphasis on less defense spending

AF Bases: None.

COMMITTEES

RESOURCES

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE